

**INCOMING TELEGRAM***Department of State*

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Action

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In speech at party given for him December 28 by officers 25th Brigade and attended by Embassy Service Attaches, Qassim referred again to border dispute with Iran. Described Iranian Parliament as reactionary body imbued with imperialistic influence. Aggression by Iran against Iraq is clear and numerous hostile acts committed will be outlined in detail soon by Minister Foreign Affairs. Iraq, however, will attempt resolve matter first by resorting to commonly used means for settling international disputes, eschewing violence, and in accordance with pacts, treaties and agreements in existence regarding rights on Shatt Al-Arab.

Qassim denied Iranian radio reports to effect that Iraqi Army has concentrated in Basra and Shatt areas; said not one soldier had been moved. He added, nevertheless, that Iraq's Army could crush aggression and move decisively when necessary.

In reply to question by Iraqi News Agency, Military Governor General Abdi said December 27 that Iranians have begun concentrate forces on Iraqi border in area of "Kassaba" and River "Al-Khennin" near Shatt Al-Arab. (Kassaba may mean Qasbat Reach; Khennin unidentified.)

Comment: For all his bluster on subject Iraqi rights vis-a-vis Iran and Shatt Al-Arab, Qassim carefully refers in each of his statements to legal means which exist for settling dispute.

It may be that Qassim has no other objective in mind in his perorations on Shatt and border quarrels than Iraqi chest-thumping, calculated to show his people that their leader fears no one and is ready to defend their rights with justice which, handily, is provided for in treaties and agreements to which he refers.

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